

## Mono County Local Transportation Commission

---

P.O. Box 347  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546  
(760) 924-1800 phone, 924-1801 fax  
commdev@mono.ca.gov

P.O. Box 8  
Bridgeport, CA 93517  
(760) 932-5420 phone, 932-5431 fax  
www.monocounty.ca.gov

### Minutes Monday, January 14, 2008, 9:00 a.m. Town / County Conference Room Mammoth Lakes, CA

### ATTENDANCE

#### Commissioners Present

**Hap Hazard, Chair**  
**Kirk Stapp, Vice Chair**  
**Tom Farnetti, Supervisor**  
**Wendy Sugimura, Town Council**  
**Neil McCarroll, Town Council**

#### Staff Present

**Scott Burns, Director**  
**Ray Jarvis, Co-Director**  
**Gerry LeFrancois, Planner, Mono County**  
**Peter Bernasconi, TOML**  
**Kelly Garcia, Public Works**  
**Jennifer Hansen, Secretary**

#### Caltrans

**Brad Mettam**  
**Forest Becket**  
**Cedrik Zemitis**  
**Ryan Dermody**

#### Other

**Monicka Watterson, ESTA**  
**Jill Batchelder, ESTA**  
**Rick Scholl, Sheriff's Department**

*Agenda items may not have been taken in order.*

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hazard at 9:05.

#### 1) PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

#### 2) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 10, 2007

- a) Commissioner Stapp motioned to approve the December 10<sup>th</sup> minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Farnetti. Abstained by Commissioner McCarroll. Passed 3-1. Those in favor: Hazard, Stapp, and Farnetti.

#### ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

- a) This item was moved forward to elect the new Chairman and Vice Chairman before business was conducted.  
CHAIRMAN: Commissioner McCarroll motioned to elect Commissioner Stapp as the new LTC Chairman. Seconded by Commissioner Farnetti. Abstained by Commissioner Sugimura as she was not present for the motion. Passed 4-1. Those in favor: Hazard, Stapp, Farnetti, and McCarroll.

VICE CHAIRMAN: Commissioner Farnetti motioned to elect Commissioner Reid as the new LTC Vice Chairman. Seconded by Commissioner Stapp. Abstained by Commissioner Sugimura as she was not present for the motion. Passed 4-1. Those in favor: Hazard, Stapp, Farnetti, and McCarroll.

### 3) TRANSIT

a) **Update on transit activities in Mono County**

Action: Update was provided on information related to transit activities in Mono County.

Ms. Watterson reported that the ESTA fare increase has been in affect for 14 days. The fare increase has not impacted ridership.

### 4) ADMINISTRATION

a) **Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman**

Action: First item covered of the meeting.

b) **Overall Work Program: Budget Amendment**

Action: Reviewed and approved a budget amendment for the 2007/08 OWP.

This amendment is being processed at the request of the Town of Mammoth Lakes to better reflect current transportation planning priorities. Town staff, Peter Bernasconi and Ray Jarvis, made the changes to better their work program. Mr. Le Francois provided a handout on the current OWP. The highlights in orange reflect the changes/shift to be made. April 1<sup>st</sup> is the latest date that any changes can be made to the OWP. Mr. Le Francois presented Minute Order 2008-01 for the approval of the amendment to the 2007/08 Overall Work Program budget. Commissioner McCarroll moved to approve the amendment of the 2007/08 Overall Work Program budget. Seconded by Commissioner Hazard. Passed 5-0. Those in favor: Hazard, Stapp, Farnetti, McCarroll and Sugimura.

c) **Blueprint Planning – Letter of Recommendation**

*This item was taken out of agenda order so Mr. Mettam could do the Blueprint Planning Workshop first.*

Action: Authorized the Chair's signature on a Letter of Support for the Eastern Sierra Central California Blueprint Project.

In conjunction with Inyo and Mono LTC's, Kern COG has taken the primary role in submitting a grant in the amount of \$100,000. Mono LTC's match will be \$6,700, which would be programmed into a future Overall Work Program. The Letter of Support is thanking the Kern COG for working and submitting a California Regional Blueprint Planning Program Grant Application that will benefit Kern, Inyo and Mono counties. Commissioner Hazard motioned to authorize the Chair's signature on the Letter of Support for the Eastern Sierra Central California Blueprint Project. Seconded by Commissioner Sugimura. Passed 5-0. Those in favor: Hazard, Stapp, Farnetti, McCarroll, and Sugimura.

### 5) CALTRANS

a) **Blueprint Planning Workshop**

*This item was taken out of agenda order and was presented after the Overall Work Program amendment.*

Action: Informational.

Mr. Mettam provided a PowerPoint presentation (with handouts) on Regional Blueprint Planning in California. He provided an overview of what Blueprint planning is, examples of existing efforts and trends, and benefits. He also provided information on Caltrans Blueprint Planning Grant Programs and other funding sources to do Blueprint Planning. It was mentioned that Kern County has offered to help Mono County go through and start a Blueprinting process (they currently already have a process in place). They will be helping Inyo and Mono counties through

a grant process. Item 4C on the agenda is the Letter of Support for the Eastern Central California Blueprint Project.

b) **Highpoint Workshop**

Action: Action item required input on the direction of the project from the Commission. This is the next level of discussion on what level of work should continue.

This is the next level of discussion on this project continued from the December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Mettam restated that the project and construction costs would be around \$44M. The three areas of direction Mr. Mettam is seeking are 1) continue the project as is, 2) stop the project all together, or 3) level to invest into the project such as keeping the focus on Highpoint rather than all three curves. Commissioner Reid was not present to comment on the community's reaction to their economic impact. Commissioner Hazard reported that Commissioner Reid had spoken with him and stated that the communities have been given adequate information on this project and are concerned with road closures. They didn't weight in on one curve vs. all three curves.

The issue the Commission has is how much capacity and safety can Caltrans bring back with a reasonable budget rather than the Commission throwing out a dollar figure to reduce the price of the project. The price is escalating out of reach but something needs to be done for safety.

Cedrik Zemitis, the Project Manager for Caltrans, feels he has been given good direction. With the costs increasing, something can be redesigned. The focus will be on: all ways to reduce the cost, Highpoint Curve only, and not shifting the accidents to another location. The new financial number will take several months of preparation time especially if it is reconsidered to move the project closer to the lake as new environmental documents will need to be drawn. Once a new figure is drawn, Caltrans will come back to the Commission for direction.

c) **State Transportation Corridor Traffic Volume Overview**

Action: Received information on US 395 historic and recent traffic volumes and trends reflected by available data.

Mr. Mettam presented a handout of trends for selected areas including: US 395 Olancho Station; Ed Powers Road Station; North Junction of SR 203; North Junction of SR 108 Sonora; US 395 at the Nevada State Line; Hwy 6 Silver Canyon Road; Hwy 6 at the Nevada State Line. Each graph showed the average annual daily traffic rate based on the year.

d) **Update on activities in Mono County**

Action: Updated on information from National, State and Local resources that relate to activities in Mono County.

Mr. Mettam gave a brief update on the transportation side of the state budget. He reported that the bond projects are unlikely to see budget cuts. The PTA revenue is down \$85M per year. The revised budget for the state will be available in May. Mr. Mettam will do a presentation at the May LTC meeting to show how the budget numbers will impact the LTC.

## **6) STATE / REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

a) **2008 STIP/RTIP Draft**

Action: Reviewed and provided direction to staff on the draft 2008 RTIP. Adoption is scheduled for the February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) funds local and regional transportation projects. This is a new five year funding cycle for transportation projects including transit, transportation enhancements and road rehabilitation. Mr. Le Francois provided a draft of the RTIP for the Commission's early review and feedback. The draft gave an overview of the Town of Mammoth Lakes and County projects that are programmed for funding. The state monitors the money to see how much is allocated to state roads vs. local roads. The town and county generally split the funding 50/50 and staff is comfortable with these funding levels. It was brought up if MLTPA funding was available through this RTIP funding and if it was programmed. Mr. Le Francois pointed out there is rural planning assistance funding but it can only be used for planning and not construction with an increase in PPM dollars not to exceed 5%

of the \$15M. The county will go with the town's direction on how they want to use their funds. This would be a good topic to be discussed further at a Town/County Liaison meeting. Other programs that have been planned for funding include bus replacements for ESTA. 23 buses need to be replaced. There are also some transportation enhancement projects (TE) that have been programmed. All projects were outlined in the handout provided by Mr. Le Francois.

b) **Regional Transportation Plan Administrative update**

Action: Reviewed the administrative changes required to update the RTP. Adoption is scheduled for the February 11, 2008 meeting.

Mr. Le Francois presented a handout of the draft RTP. At this point, just financial updates will be made to the document; no policy changes will be made. Eventual updates will include the graphics and maps for both the Town of Mammoth Lakes and the County. An action item for the February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting will be comparing and contrasting the changes of the old vs. the new RTP.

c) **Quarterly update on projects in Mono County**

Action: Received quarterly update from Mono County regarding current status of LTC projects. This item was tabled from the December 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Ms. Garcia reported on the following projects for Mono County: Lundy Lake Road; June Lake Streetscape; Owens River Road, Owens Gorge Road, and Bridgeport Streets; Lee Vining Streets. A staff report was provided detailing each project.

## 7) INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

a) **Crowley Lake Area Information Services Radio**

Commissioner Hazard brought to the attention of the Commission the information service radio housed at the Long Valley Fire Department with an AM frequency. This radio is used as an everyday transmitter for information to the Crowley communities and has an override function for emergency services and emergency announcements. Commissioner Hazard believes this would be a good tool to use to announce red/yellow school days; possibly for the forest service to alert about controlled burns in the area; use for bad weather announcements and highway closures (Caltrans should have the access phone number and access code for the radio to help update the highway information. Brad Mettam will address this on the Caltrans end. Commissioner Hazard also asked Mr. Mettam to look into possibly putting turn-able signs at the main entrances and exits of the Crowley communities to warn people the highway are closed.)

On a side note, Commissioner Hazard addressed the accidents in Oasis/Fish Lake Valley. Does CHP investigate and document these accidents? Mr. Mettam will follow-up to see if Caltrans is given the accident data for this area. Mr. Mettam reported that if there is an accident problem in this area, Caltrans should be able to help with some assistance. Caltrans meets with NDOT regarding issues like this and something will be brought up.

b) **California Transportation Plan update**

Information regarding the California Transportation Plan is available electronically and a future workshop will be given by Caltrans. Another update will be given at the February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

c) **Metropolitan Planning Organizations Regional Transportation Planning Agencies Federal Fiscal Year 2006/2007 OA Delivery**

A letter on this information was presented at the meeting.

d) **YARTS agenda**

Mr. Burns mentioned that a YARTS meeting was currently taking place.

## 8) SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – February 11, 2008

**9) ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m. by Chairman Stapp.